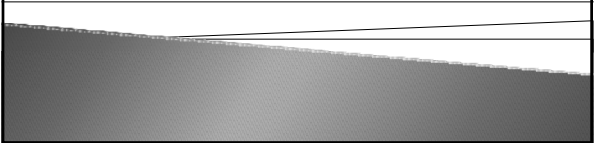



Overview of Department of Corrections

Con – Games




DOC Mission

To protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts, to provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation



DOC Vision

A national leader in corrections that enhances public safety by employing evidence based practices to maximize the rehabilitation of offenders.



DOC Values

- › We value our staff as our greatest asset.
- › We value a safe environment for staff and offenders.
- › We value community support and collaboration.
- › We value public trust in the operation of our department.
- › We value the use of evidence-based practices to maximize offender rehabilitation.
- › We value diversity and the respect for all individuals.
- › We value professionalism, teamwork and the highest standard of ethics.
- › We value investment in our staff through training in sound correctional practice and through the provision of opportunities for development and career advancement.

Recidivism Initiative

Reduction of recidivism by 50% in 5 years

- › Second Chance Act
- › Strategic Planning
- › Community Partnerships

Ultimately the goal is to work with high risk offenders on transition back to the community.

Dealing with Inmates

- › Knowledge of duties, procedures, rules, etc;
- › Self confidence;
- › Be patient;
- › Be consistent;
- › Maintain a professional image;
- › Be firm but fair and
- › Recognize individual differences.

Developing Good Interpersonal Relations with Offenders

- › Be friendly but avoid familiarity;
- › Have professional distance;
- › Establish what is appropriate, what is not appropriate and will not be tolerated;
- › Avoid the need to be popular with inmates;
- › Keep a positive attitude toward inmates;
- › Do not be surprised when you are asked to do something that clearly violates these boundaries and
- › Always be professional and reinforce the boundaries.

What is a con game?

It is a Confidence Trick

Or

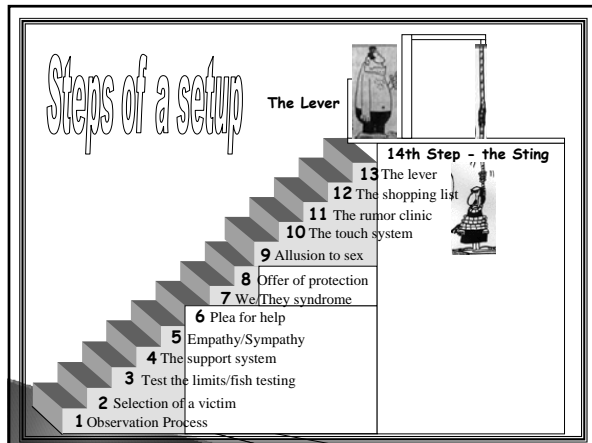
Confidence Game

Intended to trick or swindle by gaining your confidence

The first known usage of the term "confidence man" was in 1849; it was used by the press during the trial of William Thompson. Thompson chatted with strangers until he asked if they had the confidence to lend him their watches, whereupon he would walk off with the watch; he was captured when a victim recognized him on the street.[1]

There are 3 processes in the set up..

- Techniques
 - Tools
 - Turnouts



Techniques of a set up...

- Step 1. The observation step
- Body language observation Observe your movements
 - Nervousness – How confident are you?
 - Dress (neatly/professional, sloppy, provocatively)

Listening observation...

Gather information anywhere they can hear you

What kind of information do they listen for?

Any kind of personal data

Verbal observation...

Strike up conversation to confirm listening observations

Suggest or jokingly mention doing something they know they shouldn't do to test your response.

Action observation...

Inmate actually does something they know they shouldn't do (usually a small thing)

Why would they do this?

To test you (willingness to respond, your resolve, seriousness of the job)

Step 2. Selection of a victim...

Intentional Selection
(a planned target based information obtained during the observations step)

Look for staff who display:

Excessive friendliness
Naïve and trusting nature
Lack of experience or suggestibility

Accidental Selection...

Hidden weakness

Exposed during stressful situation
Change in personal life

How might they know if you have had a change in your personal life situation?

You talk about it!

Once you are pegged, they will start to test your limits...

They will break minor rules to test your response:

- A. Nudge the rules (break them just a little bit)
- B. Test your attitude
- C. Test your tolerance level
- D. Test your personality

Step 3 Fish Testing

The Hook: Asking for things they know they are not supposed to have or be given

The Intent: Just to see if you will do it!

What are some examples of things they might ask YOU for?

Tools of the set up...

Now that you have designated as *the chosen one*, it's time for them to move in for the set up phase.

Step 4. The support system...

- ▶ Verbally – Boost your ego: “You are the best _____ they have had around here in a long time ”
- ▶ Non-verbally – Develop your trust: Attempt to help you with things to make themselves indispensable to you and make YOU grateful to THEM.

Step 5 – Empathy and Sympathy

- › Empathy: Share similar experiences attitudes or thoughts with you
- › Sympathy: Try to obtain pity or compassion from you

Step 6 – Plea for help...

Create a you/me situation Play on your sympathy. "You are the only one who can help me."

Ask for confidentiality

There is nothing secret between staff and inmates!
(unless is part of your professional duty)

Step 7 – We/they syndrome...

Try to cause division among the staff
"those people don't understand you", "they're wrong about you"

Look for similar background

What kind of similarities might they look for?

(Ethnicity, neighborhood, circumstances, family situations)

Step 8 – Offer of protection...

- › Minor offers (friendship, trust, look out for you)
- › Serious offer (Intimidate others on your behalf, make you grateful or indebted to them)

Step 9 – Allusions to sex...

Use charm
compliments (you smell good today!)
subtle mentions of sex
innuendo
tell dirty jokes or stories
talk about pornography

Tell them to stop. Let them know you do not find the things they are saying acceptable.

Step 10 – Touch system...

- › If con victim is female: accidental touch (bumping, touch hands when taking things)
- › If con victim is male: buddy touching (friendly nudge, high fives, fist bumps, slap on the back)

Step 11 – The rumor clinic...

Completes the process started in the we/they step.

Designed to bring about isolation so they are their only friends or the only ones you can trust.

Turnouts

(time to get what they really want out of you...)

Step 12 – The shopping list

They expose their true intentions to you

Includes requests for favors and contraband

Step 13 – The lever

A lever works by getting the reaction you want on one end by putting downward pressure on the opposite end.

The fulcrum that (application of the pressure easy) is all the groundwork they they been laying up to this point.

The lever...

Can be used at any time during the set up once they feel the time is right

They use information they have gathered against you to try to get what they want!

It's usually generated out of friendship and trust:

Use of the lever:
friendship, loyalty, threats, blackmail

Employee reaction:
Acceptance or refusal (may be a stressful time for you)

Step 14 – The sting

If you refuse their demands:

They threaten to expose you because you are no longer useful to them.

At this point, if you have made any minor indiscretions, they WILL hang you out to dry! .

Tactics they will use to get you...

- Flattery
- Sympathy
- Helplessness
 - Isolation
 - Touching
 - Coercion
 - Protection

Steps you take to protect yourself and each other...

- › Professionalism: Always act in a professional manner (inmates and fellow staff will respect you)
- › Recognition: Know the signs of a set up (then take appropriate action)
- › Communication: Share information with your co-workers and supervisors regularly
- › Confidence: Project confidence at all times.
